

REMARKS

35 USC § 102

In the earlier submission of the present application, the Examiner objected to claims 1-6, 8-12, 16, 19, 21, 22, 25-26 as being anticipated by *Gruteser*.

It should be noted that Agent for Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention provides a chair, bed or lounge having moving parts, controls for the moving parts, information output circuitry related to the operation of the controls. The chair, bed or lounge further includes one or more energy converters that convert energy generated by one or more sources, including a solar pack, a moveable hinge, or a chair movement generator means into electrical energy. The energy converter is further linked to a power pack, whereby energy may flow for the purpose of powering the chair, bed or lounge, or energy may be stored. The power pack may be a rechargeable battery. However, the power pack operates in a manner different to a traditional rechargeable battery in that it “does not need to be removed from the chair nor does the chair have to be electrically connected to an A.C. outlet to recharge.”

In contrast, the prior art, specifically *Gruteser et al.* (US 6,870,477 hereinafter *Gruteser*) does not disclose a chair, bed or lounge having a power pack means of storing and distributing electrical power. *Gruteser* teaches a seating platform powered by way of a non-contact power supply system embedded in the floor, solar cells, and movement of the person in the chair, such as the rotational motion of the wheels. *Gruteser* teaches (in column 5, line 10) that “electrical energy delivered to the seating platform may be used to directly power the platform’s electronic devices or it may be stored in batteries.”

With respect, *Gruteser* does not disclose the application of a power pack element, having stated the advantages over traditional batteries, in the configuration of the powering of its seating platform.

Applicant’s invention involves the application of a power pack, having advantages over traditional batteries, for the purpose of receiving, storing and disbursing power generated by power generation means that are part of a chair, bed or lounge, as described.

Furthermore, the present invention discloses a chair, bed or lounge having multiple power generation means embedded therein and a power pack capable of receiving, storing and distributing power therefrom. The power pack is capable of receiving electrical energy from multiple sources simultaneously, including a solar pack, a moveable hinge, and a chair movement generator means. Energy generated by each of these sources may be transferred to the power pack. The power pack can facilitate the storage and disbursement of electrical energy generated by a variety of sources and transferred by a variety of energy converters. Such a configuration is shown in FIG. 7 wherein a solar panel 105, directs energy to a pack 110 and the same storage/power pack 110 "also draws energy from different rocking motions of the chair".

In contrast, *Gruteser* teaches a seating platform powered by a single form of electrical power generation, such as solar, or chair movement, or a floor embedded non-contact power supply system. Generated electricity flows directly to the electronic elements of the seating platform or to a battery from a single energy source.

With respect, *Gruteser* does not disclose a seating platform having multiple means of generating energy, or a power pack element capable of receiving electric energy generated by a variety of sources.

Applicant's invention involves the application of multiple means of generating electrical power, including a solar pack, a moveable hinge, or a chair movement generator means. Moreover, the power pack element is capable of receiving, storing and dispersing power generated by the variety of power generation means that are part of a chair, bed or lounge, as described.

With respect to claim 1, for at least the reasons described above it is respectfully submitted that *Gruteser* fails to disclose or suggest a power pack whereby electrical energy flows from the energy converter into the power pack and may be stored therein or utilized for powering said information output circuitry. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and therefore it is submitted that claim 2 is patentable for at least the reasons cited above and more notably the fact that *Gruteser* fails to disclose a solar panel as one of one or more energy converter means connected to a power pack. Claims 3-5 depend from claim 1 and therefore it is submitted that claims 3-5 are patentable for at least the reasons cited above and more notably the fact that each of the biorhythm sensor, the digital display, and the moveable portion of the chair are linked to the power pack for the purpose of the transfer of electrical energy.

35 USC 103b(a)

Further, the Examiner rejected the claim 7 of the present application under 35 USC 103b(a) as being unpatentable over *Gruteser* in view of Sparks (US 6,204,767 hereinafter *Sparks*). Applicant respectfully notes that the claims have been amended as particularized above to overcome the objections. Moreover, Applicant respectfully disagrees on the basis that neither *Gruteser* nor *Sparks* teach audio feedback for the purpose of “providing the directions for the use of” a “control for a moveable part of said chair”.

The present invention provides audio feedback for the purpose of providing directions regarding how to use a control in order to activate or use a moveable part of the chair. As stated on page 3, line 34, controls have sensors that produce “audio directions for use of controls”. Therefore Agent of Applicant respectfully submits that *Sparks* fails to disclose an audio feedback “providing directions for the use of the controls” and the present application is not obvious in light of *Sparks*.

In contrast *Sparks* teaches output from a speaker triggered by a control unit. In application, as a person slides from a chair and the distance between the person and the monitor increases, an alarm will sound (column 7, line 42-49).

Claim 13 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103b(a) as being unpatentable over *Gruteser* in view of Burt (US 2002/0056709). Applicant respectfully states that the claims have been amended as particularized above which overcome the objections on the basis that neither *Gruteser* nor *Burt* teach a body repositioning means” including “an electrically generated timer which provides timed interval repositioning”.

The present invention provides a timer whereby a body repositioning means, such as a lumbar adjustment member is repositioned in accordance with timed intervals, and that the timer and repositioning means electronically operated being powered by the “power pack”.

In contrast *Burt* teaches electrical control of heating a lumbar supports and valves with the lumbar support that are “under the control of a suitably programmed microprocessor” (para. 0033). *Burt* further teaches a pump that connects to a pump motor that is connected to a pump

drive that is operated in response to air pressure under the control of a microprocessor (para. 0031).

With respect, *Burt* does not disclose a timed repositioning of a lumbar support. Rather it teaches refilling of a lumbar support that is “operated in response to air cell pressure” (para. 0031), and heating of a lumbar support controlled by a microprocessor (para. 0029).

Applicant’s invention involves the repositioning of lumbar support that occurs at timed intervals as controlled by an electrically generated timer, and both the timer and repositioning means are powered by a power pack.

VOLUNTARY AMENDMENTS:

Agent for Applicant respectfully submits the addition of 3 new claims the subject of which was readily inferred from the previously presented application.

ADDITIONAL FEES:

Agent for Applicant respectfully submits the RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) in the amount of \$405 in addition to three (3) months extension of time as per 37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17 in the amount of \$525.

CONCLUSIONS:

Agent for Applicant respectfully states that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully solicits same.

Yours faithfully,



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